

Application Serial No: 10/624,171
In reply to Office Action of 6 December 2004

Attorney Docket No. 78906

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An electronic monitor for detecting the presence and absence of a locking bar that mates with a cabinet with the presence thereof preventing the opening of one or more drawers being housed by said cabinet, said electronic monitor comprising:

a first electrode fixed at a predetermined location on said locking bar;

current sensing network comprising;

source of electrical excitation having first and second ends;

current sensor having first and second ends and generating an output upon detecting current flow with the first end thereof connected to said second end of said source of electrical excitation;

second and third electrodes spaced apart from each other with the second electrode connected to said first end of said source of electrical excitation and said third

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electrode connected to said second end of said current sensor, said second electrode and third electrode being located in a predetermined manner so as to come into contact with said first electrode when said locking bar mates with said cabinet; and

a transmitter connected to said output of said current sensor and generating a predetermined signal of a selected communication link upon said detection of a change in said current flow.

2. (original) The electronic monitor according to claim 1 further comprising a guiding assembly for assisting alignment of said second and third electrodes with said first electrode when said locking bar mates with said cabinet.

3. (currently amended) The electronic monitor according to claim 2, ~~wherein~~ said guiding assembly ~~comprises a magnetic assembly~~ comprising[{}];

a first magnetic positioned on said locking bar positioned adjacent said first electrode; and

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a second magnetic positioned on said cabinet positioned adjacent said second and third electrodes.

4. (original) The electronic monitor according to claim 1 wherein said predetermined signal is a Radio Frequency (RF) signal.
5. (original) The electronic monitor according to claim 1 wherein said communication link is selected from the group consisting of a Frequency Shift Key (FSK) technique and an Amplitude Shift Key (ASK) technique.
6. (original) The electronic monitor according to claim 1 wherein said predetermined signal comprises a series of RF pulses and, wherein at least ten (10) RF pulses occur within duration of about 200 milliseconds.
7. (original) The electronic monitor according to claim 1 further comprising a test switch connected across said second and third electrodes.
8. (original) An electronic monitoring system for detecting and displaying at a central location the presence and absence of one

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or more fasteners that respectively secure one or more cabinets with the presence thereof preventing the opening of one or more drawers being housed in each of the one or more cabinets, said electronic monitoring system comprising;

first electrode fixed at a predetermined location in each of said respective fasteners;

a current sensing network for each of said one or more cabinets and having second and third electrodes located in a respective cabinet in a predetermined manner so that said first electrode of a respective fastener contacts both said second and third electrodes of its respective cabinet when said respective fastener secures said respective cabinet, said current sensing network generating an output signal upon sensing a change in current flow;

a transmitter located in each of said cabinets and connected to said output of a respective current sensing network and generating a predetermined signal of a selected communication link upon detection of said change in said current flow, each of said

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transmitters generating predetermined signals that are
different from each of said transmitters; and

a receiver located at said central location and accepting
and recognizing all of said different predetermined
signals of all of said transmitters and generating
respective output signals representative of said
presence and absence of respective fasteners being
attached to respective cabinets.

9. (original) The electronic monitoring system according to
claim 8 wherein said predetermined signals are Radio Frequency
(RF) signals.

10. (original) The electronic monitoring system according to
claim 9 wherein said communication link is selected from the
group consisting of a Frequency Shift Key (FSK) technique and an
Amplitude Shift Key (ASK) technique.

11. (original) The electronic monitor system according to claim
8 further comprising a test switch connected across said second
and third electrodes.

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12. (original) The electronic monitoring system according to claim 8 wherein all of said predetermined signals of all of said transmitters are within a band of frequencies and each of said transmitters generates a particular wave form different from each other and wherein said receiver comprises:

an antenna receiving all of said different signals from all of said transmitters and providing a respective output thereof;

a band pass filter selected to receive and pass all of said predetermined signals within said band of frequencies, said band pass filter providing a representative output thereof;

one or more matched filters each connected to said output of said band pass filter and each separately selected to receive and pass a particular waveform comprising an output signal and corresponding to a respective transmitter; and

a signal processor connected to receive each of said output signals of each of said one or more matched filters

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and providing a respective output signal
representative of the presence and absence of said
fastener being secured to a respective cabinet.

13. (original) The electronic monitoring system according to
claim 12 further comprising indicator devices respectively
connected to receive each of said representative output of said
signal processor.

14. (original) The electronic monitoring system according to
claim 13 wherein said processor counts output signals of each of
said matched filters and wherein said electronic monitoring
system further includes a storage device associated with a
respective matched filter and wherein said processor stores the
counted output signals of respective matched filters.

15. (original) A method for providing electronic monitoring for
detecting at a central location the presence and absence of one
or more fasteners that respectively secure one or more cabinets
with the presence thereof preventing the opening of one or more
drawers being housed in each of the one or more cabinets, said
method comprising the steps of:

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providing a first electrode fixed at a predetermined
location in each of said respective fasteners;

providing a current sensing network for each of said one or
more cabinets and having second and third electrodes
and generating a current flow when said first, second
and third electrodes are in contact, said current
sensing network generating an output signal upon
sensing a change in said current flow;

locating said second and third electrodes on each
respective cabinet in a predetermined manner so that
said first electrode of a respective fastener contacts
both said second and third electrodes of its
respective cabinet when said respective fastener
secures respective cabinet;

providing a transmitter located on each of said cabinets
and connected to said output of respective current
sensing network and which generates predetermined
signals of a selected communication link upon
detection of said output of said current sensing
network, each of said transmitters generating

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predetermined signals that are different from each of
said transmitters; and

providing a receiver located at said central location that
accepts and recognizes all of said different
predetermined signals of all of said transmitters and
generates respective output signals representative of
said presence and absence of respective fasteners.

16. (original) The method according to claim 15 wherein said
communication link is selected from the group consisting of a
Frequency Shift Key (FSK) technique and an Amplitude Shift Key
(ASK) technique.

17. (original) The method according to claim 16 wherein said
predetermined signal comprises a series of RF pulses and,
wherein said RF pulses occur within a predetermined duration.

18. (original) The method according to claim 17 wherein at least
ten (10) RF pulses occur within duration of about 200
milliseconds.

19. (original) The method according to claim 16 wherein said RF
pulses represent a binary code.

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20. (original) The method according to claim 15 further comprises providing a test switch connected across said second and third electrodes.